



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

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CERDEC develops process to transmit photos via SINCGARS

If it's true that a picture's worth a thousand words, then a new capability developed by the Communications – Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center will provide Soldiers a way to describe a situation or condition with just a single image.

The CERDEC Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate and the Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate worked to develop a method that common field items could use to send digital photos over SINCGARS radios.

"Instead of having to hand-carry the picture, we thought, 'Why not transmit it and get it to a central point where it could actually be looked at by people in theatre and back home,'" said Chris Wantuck, a CERDEC electronics engineer. "What was missing was a way of being able to rapidly get that information back."

Using a SINCGARS, a Miltope laptop, any commercial digital camera and a few interface cables, Soldiers are now able to send images that could increase survivability, situational awareness and aid in battlefield planning and decision-making.

The engineers hope that Soldiers in the field use this new capability to immediately transmit pictures, such as those of people being sought, strange and unusual devices found, or stockpiles of contraband to their tactical operations centers.

Army approves new .50 caliber sniper rifle

The Army has approved its new long-range .50 caliber sniper rifle, the M107, for full materiel release to Soldiers in the field, which is managed by the Project Manager Soldier Weapons with engineering support provided by Picatinny's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center.

The M107 enables Army snipers to accurately engage personnel and targets out to a distance of 1,500 to 2,000 meters respectively, said Lt. Col. Kevin P. Stoddard, product manager for Crew Served Weapons.

The weapon is designed to effectively engage and defeat targets at extended ranges including parked aircraft, computers, intelligence sites, radar sites, ammunition, petroleum, oil and lubricant sites, various lightly armored targets and command, control and communications.

The M107 was funded as a Soldier Enhancement Program to type classify a semi-automatic .50 caliber rifle for the Army and other military services. It underwent standard type classification in August 2003. A production contract was awarded to Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., Murfreesboro, Tenn., the following month.

Compared to the M24 7.62mm Sniper Rifle, Stoddard said, the M107 has more powerful optics and fires a variety of .50 caliber munitions.

"This provides sniper teams greater capability to identify and defeat multiple targets at increased ranges," he explained. The complete system includes the rifle itself, a detachable 10-round magazine, a variable-power day-optic sight, a transport case, a tactical soft case, cleaning and maintenance equipment, a detachable sling, an adjustable bipod and manuals.

USASAC raises money for olympiad team

As part of their outreach program, the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command raised \$306 to sponsor t-shirts for Bethesda, Md. Walt Whitman Middle School Science Olympiad Team to wear April 9 at a competition. USASAC has been sponsoring the school for four years, with more than 40 students participating in the program. As an offshoot to this partnership, the students write notes and cards to Soldiers recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and to the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Division Soldiers serving in Iraq.